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Chair: Mr. Salinas Burgos ..... (Chile)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/66/37 and A/66/96 and Add.1) (*continued*)

1. **Mr.** Eden **Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the CARICOM member States condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The passage of time and the loss of innocent lives in the decade since the start of discussions on the drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the attacks of 11 September 2001 should be sufficient incentive for Member States to remove the obstacles to the convention's adoption. It would be invaluable in the continued fight against terrorism, and would be a tool in preserving the rule of law and maintaining international peace and security.

2. The efforts made in that context by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, and the progress achieved in informal consultations on the draft convention, were encouraging. The CARICOM countries recalled the suggested definition of terrorism included as article 2 of the draft comprehensive convention in the package proposal put forward in 2007 by the Coordinator of the Sixth Committee Working Group (see A/C.6/65/L.10, annexes), and hoped that agreement could be reached, during the current session of the General Assembly, on such a definition, drawing a clear distinction between the crime of terrorism itself and the struggle of peoples in exercise of their right of self-determination, or under foreign occupation.

3. The CARICOM countries had themselves fallen victim to terrorist crime some 35 years previously, with the hijacking and bombing of an aircraft over the Caribbean Sea. Though that incident had resulted in many deaths, its perpetrators had never been brought to justice, despite representations made in many forums. No State was immune to terrorism, and without global action, countermeasures would not have the desired results.

4. The member States of CARICOM were parties to many of the international counter-terrorism instruments and were working hard to incorporate those instruments' requirements into their domestic legal systems. Recognizing the need to cut off financing for terrorist activities, they were making every effort to implement related internationally endorsed recommendations, including those of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

5. They supported, and appealed for further assistance to implement, the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The workshops and other events organized by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) had proven very useful in building national capacity. Aiming to harmonize and coordinate regional legislative practice in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), during September 2011 CARICOM had hosted a workshop attended by experts including representatives of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). The aim had been to analyse gaps in legislation and monitor administrative procedures relating to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

6. Although the CARICOM countries did not view a high-level conference on terrorism as necessary for the finalization of the text of a draft convention, they believed that it would enable Member States to interact with representatives of the various committees on counter-terrorism and with other stakeholders, and to explore how to improve implementation of resolutions and treaties on preventing and suppressing terrorism. Global counter-terrorism efforts must be backed up by greater national and bilateral action, in coordination with all Member States, the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, to combat the continued threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism.

7. **Mr. Le** Hoai Trung (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN shared the grave concern of the international community at the continued rise of international terrorism, and condemned terrorism in all its forms and regardless of its motives. The perpetrators of terrorist acts must be punished. In order to eradicate terrorism, it was essential to address its root causes and the conditions conducive to its spread, including political, economic and social inequality and injustice worldwide. Action to combat terrorism must be conducted in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant international conventions, and must be

firmly grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law.

8. There must be a comprehensive, coherent and cooperative approach to counter-terrorism, as emphasized in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and such an approach must include efforts to combat radicalization and initiatives to foster mutual respect, tolerance and understanding among individuals and peoples, through dialogue at the international, regional and bilateral levels.

9. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism had entered into force on 28 May 2011. It would serve to strengthen cooperation among ASEAN member States in their efforts to combat terrorism. ASEAN leaders had also agreed to pursue ASEAN's Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism, and to develop initiatives to address the root causes of terrorism while promoting deradicalization and interfaith dialogue.

10. The 18th ASEAN Regional Forum, held in Bali in July 2011, had heard a report on the results of the 9th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime. Agreement had been reached on establishing a Transnational Threat Information-Sharing Centre (ATTIC) for the Regional Forum. In the framework of development assistance programmes between ASEAN member States and Japan, counter-terrorism capacity-building programmes were being conducted to improve immigration control, airport and seaport security, customs cooperation and cooperation in law enforcement. The 6th ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue, held in Phnom Penh in February 2011, had discussed measures to counter radicalization and to enhance airport security.

11. The ASEAN nations were committed to promoting international cooperation against terrorism. They supported the leading role of the United Nations in that regard, urged full implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the General Assembly within the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and looked forward to working more closely with CTITF to coordinate efforts to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, especially in South-East Asia. Member States of the United Nations must endeavour to finalize and adopt the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

12. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, expressed appreciation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in preparing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. That instrument should not however result in denying people, in any way, their right to self-determination. The African Group was willing to work with other delegations to refine the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to achieve consensus on the draft text of the convention. The proposal to convene a high-level conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms, should be given serious consideration. No cause or grievance could justify terrorism, and the African States unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism, including State terrorism.

13. Recognizing the need for concrete measures to combat terrorism, in 1999 the African Union had adopted the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, followed by the holding of an Inter-Governmental High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, held in Algiers in September 2002, and the establishment of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers in 2004.

14. Of grave concern to the international community was the financing of terrorism. Member States of the United Nations should cooperate in addressing the problem of hostage-taking by terrorist groups, since the payment of ransom was one of their main sources of finance. There was a need for enhanced cooperation among States in combating terrorism, and for more assistance in apprehending terrorists and investigating and preventing terrorist acts. He welcomed the initiatives taken to encourage cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, including the Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative (TSCTI), developed by ACSRT and the United States Government Africa Center for Strategic Studies. He also welcomed the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa.

15. Measures were needed to ensure more effective implementation of the counter-terrorism conventions and related United Nations resolutions, as well as to step up capacity-building in developing countries.

African countries endeavoured to live up to their international obligations to fight terrorism and to implement the United Nations resolutions on terrorism, but in many of them, resources and capacity were inadequate for the task. He appealed to the international community to help them meet their obligations and commitments.

16. **Ms. Umoren** (Nigeria) expressed appreciation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 on finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The spate of terrorist attacks in many parts of the world, including the recent attack on the United Nations office in Abuja, was a potent reminder of the enormous challenge of terrorism and the imperative need for concerted global action against it.

17. Nigeria was determined to develop its own counter-terrorism strategy, in close collaboration with the international community. Two new laws contained measures for the prevention and prohibition of terrorist acts, together with enhanced measures to prohibit the financing of terrorism and the laundering of proceeds of crime. Nigeria would continue working with friendly countries and international bodies such as CTITF and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to identify and address gaps in its own counter-terrorism efforts. It supported the work of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to curtail the movement of arms in the subregion, and to establish a comprehensive subregional strategy against terrorism. It would be taking part in the activities of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF).

18. She welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to galvanize political will, develop norms, build capacities and coordinate activities with relevant actors. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a valuable and comprehensive framework for a coherent international response to terrorism. The annual review of the Strategy was a positive step to enable it to adapt to evolving situations. She commended CTITF outreach activities to promote awareness of the Strategy, and hoped an exercise of that kind would be conducted in the West African region. As the role of CTITF was to coordinate efforts made by the United Nations system, it must be adequately resourced.

19. Nigeria was convinced of the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and was following with keen interest the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210. By addressing the conditions which were conducive to the existence and spread of terrorism, progress could be made towards a lasting solution. Nigeria was encouraged by the growing recognition of the need to develop and implement comprehensive strategies to address those conditions, which included radicalization and recruitment into terrorist groups. The starting-point towards a lasting counter-terrorism strategy should be the prevention and countering of incitement to terrorist acts, including those motivated by extremism and intolerance.

20. **Mr. De Vega** (Philippines) said that terrorism presented a worldwide threat, impeding development, severing the bonds between peoples and sowing intolerance. All countries must take responsibility for combating it. His country remained committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a cornerstone of efforts to rid the world of terrorism and harness international experience in counter-terrorism. It was vital to be aware of the existing regional frameworks and to develop international legal instruments against terrorism. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, now in force, offered a legal framework for addressing the root causes of terrorism.

21. To be effective, the strategies adopted by the international community must embrace both hard and soft approaches. Terrorism was a complex phenomenon which could not be addressed through military means. His country's approach was to strive for peace through dialogue, understanding and development. The efforts of Member States, through regional and inter-regional cooperation, must be based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The protection of human rights and compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law were central to counter-terrorism. In the Philippines, the Human Security Act was being amended in that light, and the national counter-terrorism plan emphasized the need to consider human rights. Maximum international cooperation was needed in order to track down terrorists and cut off their weapon supplies. Within Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Philippines had spearheaded the creation of its Counter-Terrorism Task Force.

22. He welcomed the coordinating role of CTED and CTITF, as well as the holding of the Secretary-

General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and the Special Meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). His country undertook to work with the international community to combat terrorism, while promoting the rule of law and seeking to eliminate the conditions which bred terrorism. He hoped that consensus would soon be reached on the draft text of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, in spite of past differences concerning the definition of terrorism.

23. **Mr. Alfarhani** (Saudi Arabia) said that it was now essential to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which should set forth a clear and comprehensive definition of terrorism, including State terrorism, differentiating between the latter and legitimate resistance in recognition of the right of peoples to exercise self-defence and self-determination under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Neither must there be any bias, distortion of facts or accusations against any race, religion or nationality in that regard; terrorism was unrelated to any one of those elements.

24. Counter-terrorism efforts at the international level had received a boost at the opening of the current session with the Secretary-General's inauguration of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT). With respect to bilateral efforts, Saudi Arabia welcomed and supported the objectives of GCTF, aimed at strengthening the role of the existing global counter-terrorism architecture, of which UNCCT was now a part, under the umbrella of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Not to be forgotten in addition were the efforts by other international groupings to achieve international peace and stability and combat all forms of terrorism. His country attached great importance to cooperation and coordination between UNCCT and GCTF in the areas of capacity-building and sharing information and expertise in the interest of curtailing and eradicating terrorism. It would be working on the submission of a draft General Assembly resolution on UNCCT.

25. The most serious of all forms of terrorism was State terrorism and the direct or indirect actions by certain States in violation of the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, such as the most recent incursion into Gaza, the failure to respect international efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to the beleaguered people of Gaza, and all terrorist and other practices in contravention of international law — customary and otherwise — and human rights instruments. An entire people was denied its most basic rights and its territories had been turned into a vast prison on account of the unjust embargo imposed by Israel, which at the same time pursued it brutal military attacks on the Palestinian people. Those repeated violations were living proof of State terrorism by Israel, which acted above the law and flouted the resolutions of international legitimacy.

26. The concerted efforts of the Saudi Arabian Government and people to fight terrorism on all fronts were a natural reaction to a phenomenon entirely alien to their beliefs and culture. The Kingdom had consequently played a major role in foiling all attempts to stop the global spread of the phenomenon in its tracks. In conclusion, he expressed thanks and appreciation for the support received with respect to the establishment of UNCCT; the international community would surely look forward to reaping the rewards.

27. **Mr. Delgado Sánchez** (Cuba) said that his country condemned all terrorist acts committed for whatever reason, including those in which States were implicated, either directly or indirectly. He vigorously condemned the recent attacks in Norway and Namibia, and the indiscriminate bombardments against the civilian population in Libya by military forces, including those of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It was unacceptable that under the pretext of counter-terrorism, some States committed acts of aggression and intervened in the internal affairs of other States, and either committed, or allowed the commission of, flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, such as torture, kidnapping, unlawful detention, disappearances and extrajudicial executions. Such double standards and unilateral actions ran counter to the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of international law, and reinforced extremist ideologies, while undermining the legitimacy of the struggle against international terrorism.

28. He categorically rejected the decision taken in August 2011 by the State Department of the United States of America to include Cuba, once more, on a list of States alleged to be sponsoring international terrorism. That illustrated the irrational nature of United States policy towards Cuba, which for over 50 years had been the victim of an economic,

commercial and financial blockade, pursued in defiance of the international community.

29. Cuba had an impeccable record of fighting terrorism, and had never allowed and would never allow its territory to be used for carrying out, masterminding or financing terrorist acts against any State. The United States authorities knew that, but their current policies towards Cuba were motivated by the interests of extremists in Miami with links to Washington. A cable from the United States Interests Section in Cuba, dated 27 February 2009, obtained by Wikileaks, acknowledged that there were no anti-American or other indigenous terrorist groups in Cuba, and that Cuba's Government would not permit any organization to operate in the country for terrorist purposes. Former United States President Jimmy Carter had stated as much during a recent visit to Cuba.

30. Even now, the best-known terrorist in the Western hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles, was able to walk free in Miami or New York. Had the United States authorities not colluded in 713 terrorist acts perpetrated in Cuba in the space of some 50 years, causing 3,478 deaths and 2,099 cases of debilitating injury, it might have been possible to treat as a joke the sham of a trial in Texas which had found him to be not a terrorist but a liar. In May 2011 he had met in clear sight of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations, a location he had tried to bomb some years earlier, with a group of individuals known to be involved in terrorism and violence, later meeting openly in a New York restaurant with terrorist organizations, in order to raise funds avowedly directed at financing acts of violence against Cuba.

31. The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency, as their own declassified documents showed, recognized his guilt. The United States of America must therefore stop making excuses and fulfil its international obligation to try or extradite him. Perhaps the fact that the victims were from a third-world country made them less important. Double standards were also responsible for the fact that five Cubans had spent over 13 years unjustly imprisoned in the United States, suffering cruel and degrading treatment, simply for defending their country from such terrorists.

32. Cuba was wholly committed to the struggle against terrorism. It supported the adoption of a comprehensive convention to fill existing legal gaps. Such a convention must extend to the activities of persons acting on the orders of the armed forces of a State or irregular paramilitary groups, whenever they committed terrorist acts outside the scope of international humanitarian law. The convention must also draw a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for independence and in defence of their right to self-determination.

33. Cuba was in favour of holding an international conference under United Nations auspices to elaborate an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It would continue working to strengthen the central function of the United Nations in adopting measures in the legal field to combat international terrorism.

34. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) said that Uganda condemned terrorism in all its manifestations, for whatever purpose and by whomsoever committed. The threat of terrorism was still present in the African region, owing to the continuing political instability in the Horn of Africa and the activities of various armed groups. Significant border control challenges and the threat of piracy and other crimes at sea were depleting national resources for combating terrorism.

35. On 20 July 2011 two terrorist bombs in Kampala had killed over 70 people and injured many more. However, the perpetrators had since been successfully prosecuted and convicted. Some of them had confessed, recounting how they had been recruited by Al-Shabaab. That could not have been achieved without effective cooperation among the country's law enforcement agencies in conjunction with other States. Uganda's continuing fight against Al-Shabaab was assisted by the efforts of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and forces of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. However, the help of the international community, especially in capacity-building, was needed in order to liberate the whole of Somalia, not only the capital Mogadishu, where a suicide attack had reportedly killed 70 or more people that very morning.

36. States and non-State actors should work together against terrorism and transnational organized crime, denying terrorists safe haven, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, and improving emergency preparedness and response capacity. He deplored the dumping, off the coast of Somalia, of toxic wastes which could be recycled by terrorists into arsenals of

weapons. The dumping must stop. And those responsible must be made to clean up the sites concerned.

37. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that Nicaragua condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the State terrorism to which its own people and Government had fallen victim. It was a source of concern that the "war on terror "had been used as a pretext to attack brother peoples, causing tens of thousands of men, women and children to have their human rights violated or their lives taken. Those people were cynically called "collateral victims" of powerful countries' terrorist bombs and missiles. Reports came in daily of secret prisons, unlawful detention, forced disappearances and alliances with the very terrorists who were supposedly being targeted. Nicaragua condemned all such bellicose acts. The international strategy to combat terrorism must be coordinated and transparent, and must be kept within the bounds of international law and international humanitarian law.

38. She also condemned the cynicism and double standards of those who, while mobilizing internationally to eradicate terrorism, were themselves harbouring known terrorists on their territory, such as the persons who had caused the deaths of innocent civilians in Cuba and Venezuela. While Luis Posada Carriles went free in the United States, the five Cubans who had penetrated terrorist networks in that country, and so prevented the deaths of innocent Cubans, were still imprisoned in Florida.

39. She expressed support for the nation and people of Palestine, and condemned the violations by Israel of international law and United Nations resolutions. In the occupied territories, State terrorism was a daily occurrence.

40. Terrorism could not and must not be attributed to any particular religious, national or ethnic group, nor must membership of such groups be used to justify it. However, a clear distinction must be drawn between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples subject to foreign occupation and colonial domination in exercise of their right to self-determination, as in Palestine.

41. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism was needed, as the continued absence of such a document would send a negative message to the peoples of the world, particularly current and former victims of the phenomenon. Discussions should continue on pending issues, including a clear definition of terrorism, to include State terrorism, and coverage of actions by the armed forces of a State which were not concordant with international humanitarian law. She recalled the proposal made in that regard by the delegation of Cuba in document A/AC.252/2005/WP.2. Her country was in favour of convening a high-level conference on terrorism, to bring the positions of countries closer and rescue the credibility of the United Nations in matters relating to terrorism.

42. **Mr.** Raza Bashir **Tarar** (Pakistan) said that his country unequivocally rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomsoever and against whomsoever committed, along with the senseless killing of civilians anywhere, whether motivated by ideological differences or resulting from the disproportionate use of force against soft targets. Terrorism and extremism could not and should not be associated with any particular religion, race, ethnicity, value system, culture or society.

43. A comprehensive approach was needed in tackling terrorism, and short-term national interests should not be given priority over long-term global peace and security. The root causes of terrorism, including poverty, unemployment and long-unresolved disputes, must be addressed, using dialogue, understanding and empathy, and avoiding policies likely to alienate people and increase their vulnerability to extremism. He expressed support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and for the practice of reviewing it at regular intervals. In implementing it, the rule of law and due process should be respected. As the Strategy encompassed intercultural dialogue, it should address the problem of defamation of certain religions and promote economic and social development. He supported continuing reform of the procedures of Security Council committees, so as to ensure due process.

44. Pakistan followed the comprehensive approach adopted in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It addressed the welfare and rehabilitation of victims of terrorism. The world had applauded the counter-terrorism successes of its security forces. The Government had deployed 160,000 troops on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, and had set up 822 border posts in order to intercept members of Al Qaida and the Taliban. The struggle against terrorism had already cost the lives of 30,000

Pakistanis. Pakistan was a party to 11 international and two regional counter-terrorism instruments. It had adhered to the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and had enacted its own anti-money laundering legislation. A Financial Monitoring Unit had been set up in the State Bank, and hundreds of bank accounts had been frozen. Pakistan was also implementing the standards embodied in the various recommendations by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

45. The principles of consensus and cooperation should apply to the adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. There were several unanswered questions concerning the definition of terrorism and the scope of the convention, but Pakistan would engage in negotiations on those points. The convention must distinguish clearly between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for self-determination. Questions of international humanitarian law should be addressed using wording appropriate for that context.

46. Lastly, he welcomed the establishment of UNCCT and supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference on international terrorism.

47. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, radicalization and religious extremism. It was a party to 13 international counter-terrorism instruments, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its Protocol, and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) counter-terrorism convention. The Government of Bangladesh had proposed setting up a South Asian joint counter-terrorism task force. It did not allow its territory to be used for terrorist or subversive activities against any State. All terrorist groups appearing on the Consolidated List of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) were banned in Bangladesh, and were being actively hunted down.

48. In the previous two years, Bangladesh had done everything possible to bring its counter-terrorism legislation and institutions, including those dealing with money-laundering, into line with the four pillars of the Plan of Action under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Its first Anti-Terrorism Act, enacted in 2009, had recently been further updated in line with global standards. In 2009 Bangladesh had also enacted its first Mone Laundering Prevention Ordinance. It had just finalized its first national counter-terrorism strategy, in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It had also acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

49. Radicalization should be combated through a strategy embracing education, awareness, the empowerment of women and the propagation of secular and cultural values. In Bangladesh religious leaders, including imams, were playing a role in raising awareness of the threat of terrorism and religious extremism.

50. Calling for the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, he said that the definition of terrorism must cover all terrorist acts, by States or non-State actors. A distinction must be drawn between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples against colonial domination and foreign occupation, and for the right of self-determination. The United Nations should steer both global discourse and global action to fight terrorism. National capacity-building and the training of personnel, especially in the least developed countries, should be high on the agenda.

51. Welcoming the gradual institutionalization of CTITF, and the setting up of UNCCT, he proposed the creation of a comprehensive global database of terrorist groups and suspects, to facilitate global coordination and the sharing of intelligence. The root causes of terrorism must be addressed, including abject poverty and economic disparities, political exclusion and socio-economic marginalization, natural disasters and climatically induced loss of livelihoods. Human rights and the rule of law must take high priority.

52. Bangladesh would continue to promote multi-party democracy, freedom of the media, secularism, a culture of peace and non-violence, inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, and ethnic and religious tolerance, as well as the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, sustained economic growth, the empowerment of women and education for all. It would strengthen its legal and institutional regime to combat the causes of extremism and terrorism.

53. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that, for three decades, his country had been exposed to the challenge of terrorism. World leaders must intensify their efforts to address the shortcomings of the international mechanisms to combat terrorism. The recent events in Oslo, Mumbai and Abuja were a reminder that no country was immune to it. In Sri Lanka, a campaign of terror had been waged by a group seeking to carve out for itself a mono-ethnic territory, and receiving support and weapons from sympathizers, mainly in Western countries, who also encouraged the recruitment of children. The decision to engage militarily with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had been taken in 2006 only after the group had three times rebuffed offers to negotiate. The military engagement had been based on a well-defined distinction between the terrorists and civilians; its ultimate goal had been a humanitarian rescue operation to relieve 300,000 civilians being held against their will as a bargaining ship and human shield.

54. Throughout the conflict, the Government had taken determined steps to uphold human rights and to provide food and health care. The sympathizers of the LTTE movement were conducting a well-funded propaganda campaign to win international sympathy, following the military defeat in 2009. Meanwhile, all the people of Sri Lanka were enjoying the benefits of an economic boom, free of LTTE bullets and bombs. While the country looked to its future, it was mindful of what terrorism had done to it in the past, and remained alert to the threat of LTTE agents and front organizations abroad, as they continued to subscribe to a destructive and racist ideology.

55. As Sri Lanka's experience had shown, no terrorist group could survive for long without outside support. For that reason, the international community must adopt a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. He therefore hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism could be finalized, by consensus, without delay. Global mechanisms to combat terrorism should be strengthened, bearing in mind that terrorists made use of international mechanisms which appeared to be legitimate, and that media outlets could easily be exploited.

56. Sri Lanka was a party to 13 international instruments against terrorism. It recognized the complexity of the phenomenon and its root causes. Terrorist groups cultivated linkages with transnational organized crime, and profited from human trafficking, the arms trade, credit card fraud and cybercrime. They relied on disseminating a false image abroad of a target country. Terrorism could not be associated with any ethnic or religious group, nor could it be defeated through mainly military means. The United Nations must remain the principal body spearheading the international fight against terrorism, with the Member States contributing to the formation of legal norms. Sri Lanka was committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to the framework of agreed mechanisms for combating terrorism.

57. **Ms. Randrianarivony** (Madagascar) welcomed the Secretary-General's recent Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, held on 19 September 2011. Her country categorically condemned all acts of terrorism, and fully supported Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). It played a part in all subregional and regional initiatives for combating terrorism. She welcomed the efforts made by CTITF and CTED in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and giving effect to the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). As a member of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Madagascar played a full part, together with the island nations of the south-west Indian Ocean, in shared activities to secure regional stability and combat terrorism.

58. A convention on regional security, defining models of cooperation, had been adopted, and a regional conference held in June 2007 had addressed the question of exchanging information on policing and public safety. The recommendations adopted in June 2011 at the third meeting of the IOC regional platform on justice in Mauritius had led to the formation of a network on judicial cooperation, in conjunction with other forums such as the European Judicial Network (EUROJUST) and the Judicial Regional Platform of Sahel countries. The member countries of the IOC security and justice platforms intended to link up their information resources and communications on legal questions, especially with regard to mutual judicial assistance and extradition.

59. Madagascar was a party to 13 international counter-terrorism instruments, and was a member of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers. She hoped for speedy completion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and for the convening of a

high-level conference on international terrorism under United Nations auspices. The outline already developed in the Sixth Committee Working Group (see A/C.6/65/L.10, annexes) in 2007 provided a compromise on the basis of which progress could be made.

60. **Mr. Htut** (Myanmar) said that his country had consistently condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There was no necessary link between terrorism and any particular religion, race, culture or identity. Counter-terrorism efforts must not become a pretext for any country to interfere in the internal affairs of another, and the measures taken to combat terrorism must be in line with the specific circumstances prevailing in the region concerned and in each country. In combating terrorism, all legal avenues must be explored.

61. Myanmar was a party to 11 international counter-terrorism instruments, and a signatory to one. It cooperated with the United Nations on counter-terrorism, and had reported to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism. In 2007 it had signed the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and had been playing a part in the efforts of ASEAN to combat terrorism. It had always played an active role in international cooperative efforts against terrorism. Myanmar's domestic legislation on terrorism included its Penal Code of 1861, the Control and Money Laundering Law of 2002, the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Law of 2004, and regulations drafted with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It had a financial intelligence unit and was a member of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

62. He appreciated the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in preparing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The international community must stand together to combat the scourge of terrorism.

63. **Mr. Muchemi** (Kenya) said that Kenya strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and believed that combating it required international cooperation. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided a sound framework for such efforts. He attached the utmost importance to the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and urged the Sixth Committee to rise to the task. He expressed appreciation of the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee established under General Assembly resolution 51/210 in seeking consensus on outstanding issues. He was in favour of convening a high-level conference on international terrorism.

64. Kenya was a party to 14 of the 16 international counter-terrorism instruments, and since 2009 had been undergoing review by the FATF International Cooperation Review Group. Its money laundering legislation, the Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering Act of 2010, was based on FATF standards and contained provisions on forfeiture, asset freezing and confiscation.

65. Kenya's experience of terrorism dated back to December 1980 when terrorists had attacked the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi, and it had since experienced the bombings of the United States Embassy and of a tourist hotel in Mombasa. To avert future attacks, it had established an anti-terrorism police unit, a National Counter-Terrorism Centre and a Counter-Terrorism Prosecution Unit, and had stepped up border and airport security. It was a member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), and worked to address security challenges in its region through the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community. It had adhered to binding protocols on regional security and on stemming the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) played a major role in capacity-building in Kenya and the wider region.

66. **Ms. Woldeyohannes** (Eritrea) said that her delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, and believed that it must not be associated with any particular religion, nationality or ethnic group. The four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be given equal attention, including the root causes of terrorism and conditions conducive to terrorism.

67. Calling for progress in the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on counter-terrorism, she said they were still hampered by the lack of a clear definition of acts of terrorism and by the question of the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign

occupation or colonial or alien domination in exercise of their right to self-determination. She thanked the Secretary-General and the Chairman and Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 for their reports, and for their efforts to conclude the draft comprehensive convention and to convene a high-level conference on international terrorism.

68. The role of the United Nations in combating terrorism should extend to ensuring that terrorism was not politicized for particular purposes. It was unacceptable to threaten or use force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State under the pretext of combating terrorism. Nor could terrorism be fought by military means alone, and any action taken against it must be consistent with international law. Eritrea, which had long experience of combating terrorism, undertook to work at the national, regional and international levels to develop and enforce effective counter-terrorism measures consistent with international law.

69. **Mr.** Nejmeddine **Lakhal** (Tunisia) said that terrorism was a threat to peaces and security that hampered economic and social development and had traumatic effects on civil society, as the Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and the Special Meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) had confirmed.

70. The response of the international community to terrorism should focus mainly on tackling its deep-seated sources, including socio-economic problems, racism and xenophobia. A clear definition of terrorism must be adopted. It must include foreign occupation and State terrorism, both being violations of international law, and must emphasize the protection of human rights and the primacy of law. Cooperation and the coordination of counter-terrorism efforts must be stepped up at the international, regional and subregional levels, through the exchange of information, technical assistance and the transfer of technology where necessary. Effective measures must be put in place to put an end to the illegal possession of light weapons by civilian populations following situations of crisis and conflict. Preventive measures were also needed, especially in the form of education and awareness-raising.

71. Tunisia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and undertook to support international efforts to eradicate it, in full observance of human rights and the primacy of the law. It welcomed the establishment, under United Nations auspices and at the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, of UNCCT.

72. **Mr. Válek** (Czech Republic) said a solution to terrorism could only be found at the multilateral level. His country supported all the efforts in that direction by the United Nations, and also welcomed those made by the Office of the Ombudsperson set up to report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities regarding de-listing requests, in order to enhance due process in the operation of sanctions.

73. One of the highest priorities for the Sixth Committee must be the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Delegations should give a chance to the package proposal put forward in 2007 by the Coordinator of the Sixth Committee Working Group (see A/C.6/65/L.10, annexes), the text of which succeeded, in its article 3, in preserving the integrity of international humanitarian law. Consensus was now possible, given the goodwill prevailing among the negotiating parties.

74. **Mr. Pavlichenko** (Ukraine) said his country firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motivation or objectives. It was a party to some 20 international instruments against terrorism, and cooperated actively with the counter-terrorism efforts of many international organizations and bodies, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe, and FATF. The Ukrainian authorities had effective links in counter-terrorism with neighbouring countries, including those in the former Soviet Union. It cooperated in the subregion through the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM). It had bilateral links with many other Member States of the United Nations, and its State Committee for Financial Monitoring had entered into about 40 bilateral arrangements with partners in other countries to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It was continuing to improve its national laws and regulations, and its Criminal Code made it an offence to incite terrorist acts or provide financial and material assistance to carry them out.

75. He supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and endorsed the central role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism. All Member States should remain firmly committed to the implementation of the Strategy. He welcomed the recent improvements in the Security Council listing and delisting procedures for individuals and entities subject to sanctions.

76. One of the most important remaining tasks was the finalization and adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The package proposal put forward in 2007 by the Coordinator of the Sixth Committee Working Group (see A/C.6/65/L.10, annexes) was a step in the right direction and could form the basis of a consensus. He supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference, which would help in identifying the root causes of terrorism and would gain significance if the draft convention were to be adopted. His country undertook to cooperate at the national, regional and global levels in the fight against terrorism.

77. **Mr. Mohammadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that Iran condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, and embraced the Koranic prohibition against killing a human being without justification. Iran itself had constantly been a target of terrorists. Its scientists had also fallen victim to acts of terrorism orchestrated from outside, as part of the campaign to deprive it of its lawful right to master advanced nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. It had good reason to muster its forces to defend itself and its citizens against terrorism.

78. In June 2011, the International Conference on the Global Fight against Terrorism, held in Tehran, had been attended by over 70 States as well as by international and regional organizations and experts. A report on the outcome of that Conference was now a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/65/926 and S/2011/512).

79. The root causes leading to the spread of terrorism included the unlawful use of force against some States, foreign aggression and occupation and interference in the internal affairs of other States. Terrorism in his own region was mainly generated and fuelled by conflicts inflicted from outside. The excessive use of military force, in the name of eliminating terrorism, had contributed to a sense of despair in the target populations. In countries bordering Iran, increasing numbers of men, women and children were falling victim to indiscriminate air strikes and bombing. The ugliest form of terrorism was State terrorism by an occupying power.

80. Terrorism was being politically manipulated by some actors who were funding, organizing or taking part in terrorist acts, as well as resorting to State terrorism and extrajudicial killing, while negotiating with terrorists whenever they saw it as beneficial to their own narrowly defined interests to do so. Ironically, a State with a long record of State terrorism continued to label a number of other countries as sponsors of terrorism, in order to place pressure on them. Such a hypocritical approach made way for terrorist groups to thrive. It was essential to avoid double standards and to act in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with international law, international human rights law and humanitarian law, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and the political independence of States. Attempts to attribute terrorism to any particular culture, religion or nationality were deplorable and merely gave leeway to terrorists. He welcomed all initiatives to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions.

81. He attached great importance to the negotiations for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and shared the sense of frustration at their prolongation. Efforts must continue to reach consensus. Agreement must be reached without compromising established norms and principles of international humanitarian law concerning the legitimacy of struggles by peoples against foreign occupation, aggression, colonial and alien domination, and for self-determination. The definition of terrorism should distinguish clearly between heinous acts of terrorism and such legitimate struggles. The convention itself must criminalize acts of terrorism committed by States.

82. **Mr. Almakhadi** (Yemen) said that his country took a principled stand against all terrorism, whatever its justifications or motives. Under no circumstances should terrorism be linked with any religion, culture or nationality. It was a criminal scourge that must be tackled with strength and determination. To that end, the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism must be finalized, including a clear and comprehensive definition of terrorism that distinguished it from the legitimate resistance embodied in the right of peoples to deter aggression in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

83. Yemen had ratified most international counter-terrorism instruments and taken numerous measures to

fight terrorism at the national level. In that connection, it had enacted a law to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism; amended its Criminal Code in order to criminalize all aiding of terrorism, including through incitement; and entered into bilateral agreements on the exchange of expertise in the fields of crime-fighting and information-sharing. A counter-terrorism bill was currently before the Yemeni Parliament for completion of the necessary constitutional procedures, distinct in that it took into account the human rights aspects of counter-terrorism. Public awareness activities were also being conducted with the aim of strengthening the principles of tolerance, fairness and compromise.

84. Notwithstanding its scant resources and lack of international support, Yemen continued to pursue its counter-terrorism efforts and had consequently achieved successes in driving out Al-Qaida and destroying its subversive schemes. An integrated global strategy was needed, however, in order to build national capacities and mobilize resources in support of the Government's work to combat extremism and terrorist dogma by tackling their underlying socio-economic causes. Yemen welcomed the signature of the agreement on the establishment of UNCCT.

85. **Mr. Şahinol** (Turkey) said his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism could not be identified with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Numerous social, economic, political and other factors were exploited by terrorist organizations in order to win adherents and supporters. Measures to prevent terrorism must cover a wide spectrum of activities at the international, national and local levels.

86. Owing to a lack of political will or capacity, gaps persisted in the implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism. A uniform approach was needed in order to identify and bring to justice those responsible. There must be full compliance with the 13 major international instruments against terrorism, which must be ratified and put into effect by all countries. All Member States of the United Nations must strive to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Another priority should be addressing corruption and money-laundering, and the financing of terrorism through organized crime. International judicial cooperation was no less important than cooperation in security matters, and the "prosecute or extradite" principle must be paramount. In the absence of a global convention on judicial cooperation, the United Nations should assume a more proactive role in that area. Action must be taken to deny terrorists safe havens and immunity from justice. Remedies must be found for the existing loopholes in the legal system and the deficiencies of law enforcement agencies. Much greater scrutiny should be applied to the grant of asylum, so as to deny asylum to perpetrators and supporters of terrorism. The movement of terrorists and their supplies of weapons should be checked through more effective border controls and improved cooperation in the exchange of information.

87. The United Nations was the lynchpin of counter-terrorism efforts. In that sense, Turkey strongly supported the promotion and implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. To counter the forces fuelling polarization and extremism, it was necessary to pursue dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) had been established at the initiative of Turkey and Spain in order to facilitate dialogue and harmony through the common values of different cultures and religions.

88. He drew attention to the need for closer and more effective cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council, and welcomed the growing interaction between the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and Member States. Turkey intended in future to redouble its own counter-terrorism efforts.

89. **Mr. Alalawi** (Oman) said that it was in the public interest to eradicate all forms of terrorism. As part of its cooperation with the international community to that end, Oman had ratified 10 of the 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and had brought its domestic legislation into line accordingly by enacting laws to combat terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. It agreed with the view that terrorism was not confined to any one people, race or religion and that it must be fought by exploring its roots and causes.

90. Effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights were not conflicting but complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives. Regional and subregional cooperation had an extremely positive influence in curbing terrorism. Oman supported the United Nations Global Counter-

Terrorism Strategy and looked forward to adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, including a clear definition of terrorism that distinguished it from the legitimate right of occupied peoples to fight for liberation from occupation and for self-determination. Agreement must first be reached on the outstanding issues pertaining to the draft, however. Oman commended the Saudi Arabian initiative to establish UNCCT.

91. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his country firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and all acts that resulted, directly or indirectly, in encouraging it. The Secretary-General's recent Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and the special meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) were both welcome developments.

92. Algeria had continued to work closely with the United Nations on countering terrorism, through efforts to better understand the phenomenon, counter incitement and promote deradicalization, using appropriate awareness-raising methods. It particularly supported efforts against cyberterrorism and the use by terrorists of modern communication technology in general, and the internet in particular, to recruit and radicalize individuals. In that connection, he recalled the emphasis placed by the Security Council, in its resolution 1963 (2010), on prevention, the evolution of risks and threats, and addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and increased attention on Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), which had been the subject of a very positive plan of action by CTED.

93. Algeria had continued to combat the financing of terrorism, and particularly the practice of taking hostages in order to demand a ransom for their release. In that connection, it welcomed the related provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/34 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and hoped that discussions at the current session would explore the use of the law to combat that phenomenon.

94. Algeria was strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation with the rest of the African continent and the subregion. The efforts of ACSRT were significant, particularly those focusing on efforts with the African Union to develop a framework law on counter-terrorism. As the subregion of the Sahel had experienced an upsurge in terrorist activity carried out under the banner of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Algeria was also stepping up subregional cooperation in counter-terrorism, leading to the establishment of a Committee of Joint Chiefs (CEMOC) in the Algerian town of Tamanrasset, for the armed forces of Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, and to the setting-up in Algiers of an intelligence-sharing and -processing body, the *Unité de Fusion et de Liaison*. Those new mechanisms supplemented existing cooperation arrangements for police, customs and border guard forces. Moreover, a conference on anti-terrorism in the Sahel desert region held on 7 and 8 September in Algiers had focused on enabling countries to take ownership of their security and stability.

95. Algeria supported the Saudi Arabian counter-terrorism initiative launched in 2005, which had recently culminated in the establishment of UNCCT. It also lent full support to CTITF and GCTF. Attaching importance to the finalization of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, Algeria welcomed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 and urged the inclusion in the convention of an agreed definition of terrorism. It also supported the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations to examine pending issues.

96. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said it was unfortunate that certain members of the Committee were continuing to politicize the debate, when it would have been more fitting and desirable for such conduct to be given no place in that forum. She wished to respond briefly to the words of the representative of Saudi Arabia. Despite his country's internationally known record as a serial violator of human rights, he had chosen to lecture the Committee on those rights.

97. Saudi Arabia denied its own people the most basic of human rights. It brutally repressed the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and discriminated against women. A country which still punished homosexuality by execution, flogging, stoning and imprisonment could not afford to criticize others.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.